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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Tarig A. Omer, 41, of Fairfax, Virginia, was sentenced yesterday to 12 months and one day incarceration by the Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema, United States District Judge, for devising a scheme to defraud the D.C. Medicaid program between 2000 and 2002. The Court also ordered Omer to pay approximately \$165,000.00 in restitution to Medicaid.

Omer was president of Skycare Transportation Inc., an Alexandria, Virginia, company that provided non-emergency transportation to ambulatory D.C. Medicaid beneficiaries. In January 2000 Omer began a two-and-a-half year scheme to defraud D.C. Medicaid. During this time period, Omer submitted over 16,000 fraudulently inflated claims. These claims were billed as wheelchair transportation services, when Omer knew that his company only provided ambulatory transportation services. In addition, Omer submitted claims for over \$40,000.00 for services he did not render. For example, between November 15, 2001, and March 29, 2002, Omer submitted 92 claims for wheelchair transportation for a Medicaid beneficiary that Omer knew had died on November 14, 2001.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General and the FBI. Assistant United States Attorney Charles Connolly prosecuted the case for the United States.

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